

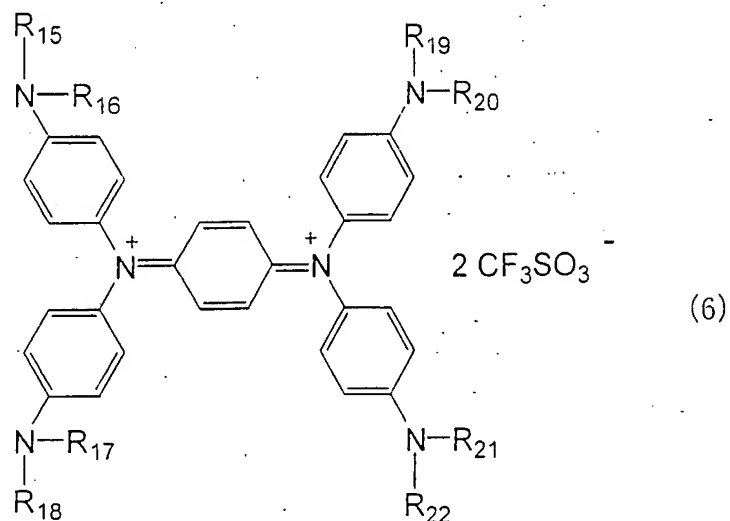
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A near infrared absorbing compound represented by formula (6) below:



wherein R_{15} to R_{22} independently represent a straight-chain or branched butyl or pentyl group.